

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 27, 2003 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 5-7, 9-11, 14-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 29-38 have been amended. Claims 39-73 have been added. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 25-28 have been cancelled. Claims 22-24 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-24 and 29-73 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21, and 25-38 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 25-28 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 5-7, 9-11, 14-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 29-38 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Feustel et al. (U.S. Patent 5,552,962). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, however, have cancelled claims 25-28 to advance this application to allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claim 1, 9, 14, 20, 29 and 38 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Further, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-8, 10-13, 15-19, 21, and 30-37 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

Each of the claims noted in the Examiner's comments regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the pending application is now in condition for allowance.

New Claims 39-73

Claims 39-73 have been added. Claims 39-45 depend upon independent claim 29. Claims 46-51 depend upon independent claim 38. Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the reasons that independent claims 29 and 38 are patentable, dependent claim 39-51 are also patentable.

With regards to new independent claim 52, none of the art relied upon by the Examiner discloses "a switch device for changing the circuitry between a no normal configuration, a full normal configuration, and a half normal configuration, the switch device being carried by the module housing." Applicants therefore respectfully submit that for at least this reason, independent claim 52 and dependent claims 53-56 are patentable.

With regards to new independent claim 57, none of the art relied upon by the Examiner discloses a patching device including "circuitry having first and second spring assemblies . . . and a means for switching the circuitry between a no normal configuration, a full normal configuration, and a half normal configuration." Applicants therefore respectfully submit that for at least this reason, independent claim 57 and dependent claims 58-62 are patentable.

With regards to new independent claim 63, none of the art relied upon by the Examiner discloses "circuitry including a grouping of contacts that provide electrical connection locations for changing the circuitry between a no normal configuration, a full normal configuration, and a half normal configuration, the grouping of contacts being carried by the module housing." Applicants therefore respectfully submit that for at least this reason, independent claim 63 and dependent claims 64-65 are patentable.

With regards to new independent claim 66, none of the art relied upon by the Examiner discloses "a module removeably mounted to a chassis," the removable module including "a switch device for changing the circuitry between a no normal configuration, a full normal configuration, and a half normal configuration." Applicants therefore respectfully submit that for at least this reason, independent claim 66 and dependent claims 67-70 are patentable.

With regards to new independent claim 71, none of the art relied upon by the Examiner discloses "a module removeably mounted to a chassis," the removable module including "a grouping of contacts that provide electrical connection locations for changing the circuitry between a no normal configuration, a full normal configuration, and a half normal configuration." Applicants therefore respectfully submit that for at least this reason, independent claim 71 and dependent claims 72-73 are patentable.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-24 and 29-73) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

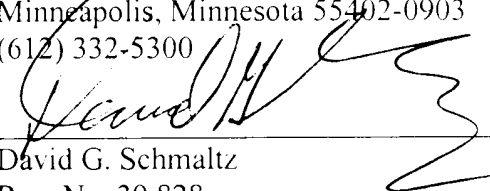


Date: _____

8/27/03

Respectfully submitted,

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